stated that it was vitally defective in so far as it left out the question of the introduction of responsible government on which there was great unanimity of opinion. The scheme also was defective in the opinion of the Member, in so far as it involved an overlapping of the functions of the two legislative bodies.

As regards the reform of the Assembly, the Member said that there should be one Central Popular Assembly for the whole State, and a Divisional Assembly for each Division. The latter should consist of members elected by each *pakuthi* on a system of extended franchise, while the Central Assembly should be composed of representatives elected by the Divisional Assemblies at the rate of 15 members per division. The Divisional Assemblies as well as the Central Assembly should have the right of making representations and the latter should have, in addition, the right of moving resolutions and asking interpellations. The Member was of opinion that the Assemblies should serve three main purposes :

(i) to spread political education among the electorate;

(ii) to exercise a wholesome check on the activities of the executive and the legislature; and

(iii) to purge the Government of its evils, and the corruption, bribery and high-handedness of officials. The principle of local self-government should be put in practice on a more extensive scale than at present without adding to the existing financial burden of the people. In conclusion, the Member recommended the appointment of a committee to draw up a constitution, embodying the scheme of responsible government outlined by him.

At the conclusion of his representation the Member said that he omitted to represent one item in his representation on his first subject and asked for permission to make that request. On being permitted, the Member submitted that a committee consisting of the Surgeon in charge of the Quilon Hospital, the Chairman of the Quilon Municipality, and two prominent members of the Municipality might be appointed to look into the matter of the location of the small-pox hospital at Asramam or some other place.

*President's reply.*—Your representation is noted. Mr. Sankaran Tampi and Mr. Raman Pillai, the subject upon which you have spoken is a very important one. Your suggestions concerning the changes required in the Legislative Council Regulation and the Assembly Rules and your remarks about the correction of the electorate are valuable and they are noted.

**173. Responsible Government.**

*Mr. Joseph Thomas* (Member, Minachil taluk) in introducing his subject observed that it was natural that, with the growth of civic consciousness in the country, the idea should also be that any but representative government would be detrimental to its interests. He then discussed, in general terms, the necessity for a form of responsible government for Travancore and argued that such a government was needed for the country, not merely because the present system of government was bad, but also because, in his opinion, even the best government could not be a substitute for self-government. And, so far as the administration of Travancore was concerned, it had no consistent policy and it was also an administration by a foreigner. The Member then mentioned the disadvantages of a foreigner, particularly an officer of the British Government, being at the head of affairs in the State. Proceeding, he claimed that Travancore should be solely for Travancoreans, because the people of the Tamil Districts had already a predominance in the country in point of wealth and that they should not have political supremacy also. They were merely birds of passage and came to Travancore only for their monthly salary. By keeping away from the people of Travancore the highest appointment in the State, the sons of the soil lost their opportunity to display their intellectual ability. The removal of foreigners from the service and the substitution in their place of Travancoreans would not by themselves be enough. Nor would the distribution of places among members of any particular community suffice. What he wanted was a system of administration in which the officers were of the people's choice, holding office only so long as they enjoyed the confidence of the people.

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The Member passed on to consider the question of reform of the political institutions of the State and said that, for their progress and permanence, British institutions should be adopted, since those institutions were based on the principle of the greatest happiness of the greatest number and that accounted for England's steadiness in the midst of revolutions and civil strife in the surrounding countries. He then quoted John Stuart Mill and enumerated the requisites of a representative Government and proceeded to consider the position of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and the Legislative Council in Travancore.

As regards the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, the Member said that he endorsed the opinion that the institution was no good and that nineteen years had elapsed since the Assembly first met, and yet no reform worth the name had been introduced in its constitution, although the Government were aware that it was impossible not to introduce improvements in the working of that institution. He suggested that the Assembly might be reformed in two ways, *viz.*, (1) by empowering it to ask interpellations, pass resolutions, consider the State budget and to have a share in legislative work ; and (2) by extending the franchise.

As regards the Legislative Council, the Member said that it was ill-suited to the educational advancement and the sense of political consciousness of the people of Travancore, and complained that the Government were very reluctant to grant independence to the people in the matter of administration and that reforms were doled out in driblets. He compared the powers of the Legislative Councils of the British Indian Provinces and said that the Legislative Council in Travancore had no powers to discuss several matters of importance.

The Member, in conclusion, advocated the establishment of a cabinet Government, the members of which, including the Dewan, were to be members either of the Legislative Council or of the Assembly and they were to hold office so long as they enjoyed the confidence of the majority. This, the Member suggested, was the only way to eradicate the evils arising from an administration which had no continuity of policy, the Dewan being a foreigner in the country having no executive or advisory Council to help him.

*President's reply.*—Your suggestions are noted.

The Assembly adjourned at P. M.

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